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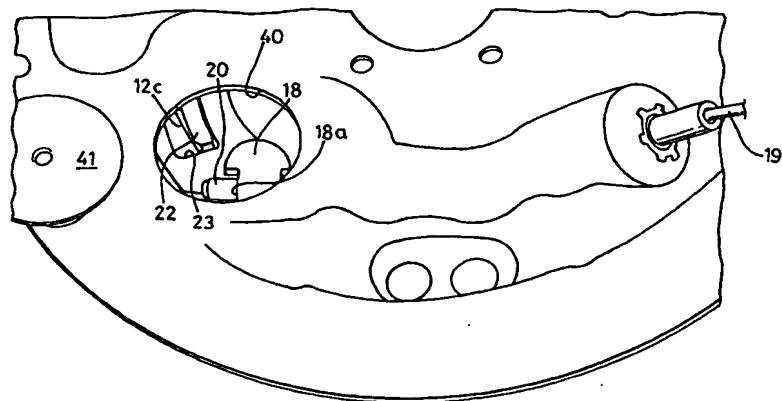
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(54) Title: PARKING BRAKES



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(57) Abstract: A parking brake is described which has a backplate (13), first and second brake shoe portions (11,12) mounted on the backplate, a drum encircling the brake shoe portions, a parking lever (15) pivoted (21) adjacent one end on one (12) of the brake shoe portions, and a strut (17) extending between a first abutment on the parking lever (15) and a second abutment on the other (11) of the brake shoe portions. Operation of a driver operated handbrake lever pivots the parking lever relative to said one brake shoe portion (12) via a connecting cable (19) so that the parking lever moves from a retracted position to an operative position thus moving the strut (17) which in turn moves the other brake shoe portion (11) away from said one brake shoe portion (12) to bring the shoe portions into contact with the drum thus apply the parking brake. The backplate (13) includes a viewing opening (40), and the parking lever (15) and said one brake shoe portion (12) include datum surfaces (12c,22a) visible through the viewing opening from which the position of the parking lever (15) relative to said one brake shoe portion (12) can be assessed, thus enabling verification that the cable (19) is applying force to the parking lever (15) when the parking brake is released and is therefore tensioned to a predetermined level.